

Hanover Life

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He's Got the Magic

Teen Uses Magic to Inspire and Motivate Others

Motivating Through Magic

John Logan uses his magic tricks to inspire and motivate his audiences.

by Iris Peters
Publication assistant

It is typical for a young child to receive a magic kit as a gift. It is typical for magicians to entertain at birthday parties and school functions. But to have a kid begin a career in entertainment, create original magic tricks and write a book all before graduating high school? That is not typical. But then again, Hanover resident John Logan is not a typical kid.

From a young age, Logan showed interest in magic. His parents bought him one of those classic toy magic kits that contained a top hat and a wand, and they hired a magician to entertain at his birthday party when he was 8 or 9 years old.

"The magic kit and magician sparked my interest, but my dad also convinced me that he was Superman when I was younger," Logan said. "That got the idea of 'super powers' into my head and made me think anything is possible."

By age 12, he started playing around with things such as cards and coins, and after learning some basic tricks he began to research and create his own.

He learned how to do naturally and created his tricks based on what he would think was cool if he were an audience member. Once he had mastered his own, he practiced on close friends and family until he perfected it.

"It is tough to create your own stuff," he said. "As a performer, I might think something is really cool, but it might not be to the audience. You have to think, 'If you're doing a trick, how would you naturally pick up a card?'"

Logan posted videos of his original tricks online and they got the eye of a talent agent and entrepreneur from Las Vegas who reached out and at 12 years old, Logan became a regular performer at their agency event. Logan said he thought it would be a really cool thing to do. Logan said he now has a goal to pursue the passion of magic.



John Logan shows many performances throughout the year. He has done shows for the Hanover Field, different organizations at Bryant University, and other small gatherings. He also was invited to speak to incoming freshmen at Bryant. Logan says he loves doing shows to see reactions from the audience.

Photo courtesy of Peter Macdonald

his school, Bryant University. "I've only been here for a year, and last year I did five or six shows," he said. "And they have a big talent show and I was the first freshman to make the top three in school history. That was pretty cool."

He also does close-up magic with cards, which he enjoys because of the different relationships he gets to have with the audience.

"It is kind of cliché, but if I do a trick and I make the 'impossible' become possible, they should see that they can make their goals possible too."

— John Logan

per's perception are, and he believes that once you understand people, you can influence them through movement and voice.

"Magic is a great way to grab their attention and then once you have it, you can give them some sort of a lesson," he said. "No matter what you talk about, you have that connection so they can appreciate my voice and I appreciate theirs. It's all about communicating and having fun, and that is what my purpose is to people."

Logan's magic act is not the kind of act that was a stroke of luck, and he does not have an assistant when he performs on stage or in hall. He has to take control of the stage and deliver his extraordinary with them.

"He has always had that leadership background. He always showed determination."

— Carolyn McDonald

"I don't see hands or sleeves or anything like that," he said. "I don't want to be a magician. That's not magic. Magic is taking something small and making it amazing."

He performed his first official stage act when he was 15. That was the same year he decided he wanted to write a book.

The book would explain how magic can be used to think outside the box and make others to perform their own purpose in life, just as his magic act does. He proposed the idea to Clark, who loved the idea and Logan began writing before and after school.

"I would say my act is a mix of a school night, but my parents just thought I had extra homework," he said. "They didn't know I was writing the book."

The entire process took about three years. Logan wrote the book and did all the research himself, and with the help of Clark and his agency, found a publishing company that was interested in working with him.

Last year, the book was published and Logan told his parents about it.

"It was so exciting when he told us what was going on in the last couple of years," said his mother, Carolyn McDonald. "It was such a surprise. I thought he was just having fun with it."

In the book, Logan describes easy magic tricks. There are pictures and explanations on how to perform each of them. He also includes a section on how to become a professional magician. He wanted to inspire his parents in the published book as a way to show how much he loves magic.

"I wanted to thank them in a special way for everything they have done, so I thought writing a book would be a cool way to do that," he said. "And the book is dedicated to them."

His book, "The Perfect Trick" is now being sold on Amazon, BarnesandNoble.com, as well as Amazon.com and bookstores in the Hanover area.

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John Logan shows for the first time and other students at the Hanover area. Photo courtesy of Peter Macdonald

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At age 12, he started playing around with things such as cards and coins, and after learning some basic tricks he began doing research and creating his own.

He learned how to act naturally and created his tricks based on what he would think was cool if he were an audience member. Once he had material of his own, he practiced on close friends and family until he perfected it.

"It is tough to create your own stuff," he said. "As a performer, I might think something is really cool, but it might be really obvious to the audience. You have to think, 'If you weren't doing a trick, how would you normally pick up a card?' and then you have to make sure you do it that way."

Logan posted videos of his original tricks online and they caught the eye of a talent agent and entrepreneur from Las Vegas. The agent reached out and at 12 years old, Logan became the youngest career consultant their agency ever had.

"I thought it would be a really cool thing to do," Logan said. "And the entrepreneur, his name is James Clark, has continued to mentor me on how to pursue the passion of magic."

Now 19, Logan performs his magic at events throughout the year and has been hired by different clubs and organizations at

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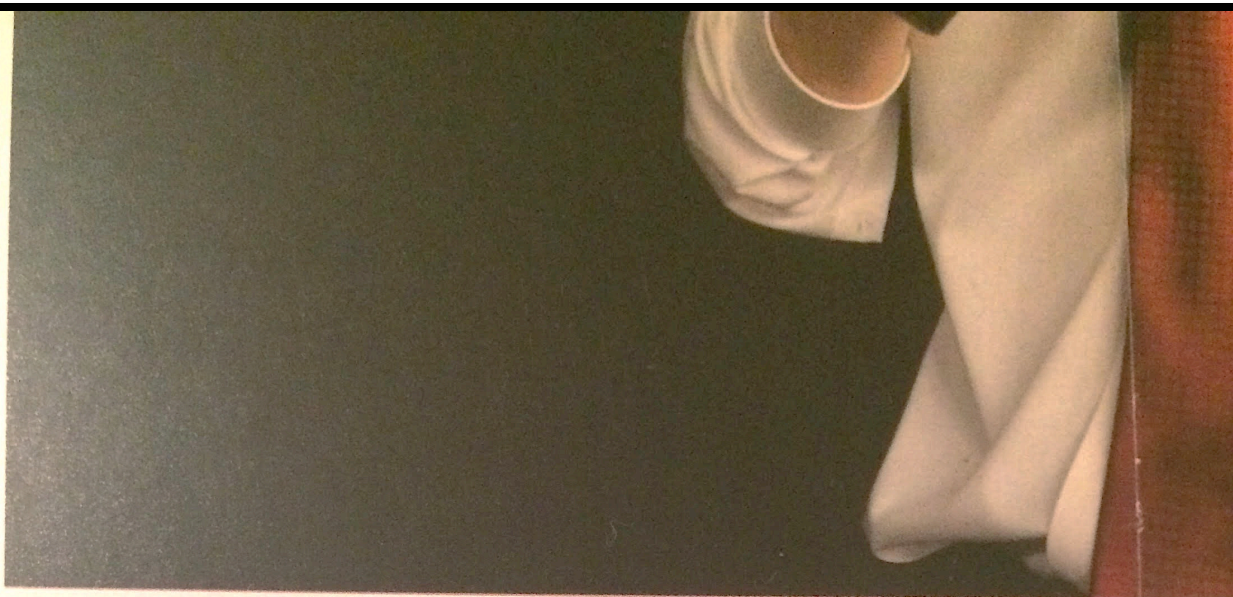
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John Logan does many performances throughout the year. He has done shows for the Jimmy Fund, different organizations at Bryant University, and other small gatherings. He also was invited to speak to incoming freshmen at Bryant. Logan says he loves doing shows to see reactions from the audience.

Photo courtesy of Carolyn MacDonald

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He also does close-up magic with cards, which he enjoys because of the different relationships he gets to have with the audience.

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"Magic is a great way to grow you have it, you can give them." "No matter what you talk about they can appreciate my view about communicating and having a message is to people."

Logan's magic act is not a machine, and he does not have to cut in half. He likes to take something extraordinary with the

"He has always had a background in magic."

"I don't use birds or anything. I don't want huge illusions, something small and intimate. He performed his magic. That also was the same book.

The book would be outside the box and in life, just as Clark, who loved magic after school.

"I would stay in magic just thought I know I was writing.

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"I love cards because you can go anywhere with them," he said. "But the main thing I do it for is the reactions. Close-up magic is more difficult but definitely more rewarding because they can feel the magic happen. It is a one-on-one relationship."

But his show is not just for entertainment purposes. Logan uses his magic skills to express another passion, which is motivational speaking.

"I don't like to be known as the magician because it stereotypes you instantly," he said. "I don't want to be known for my magic; I want to be known for my message."

Logan uses magic as a way for people to understand that nothing is impossible. He uses his tricks to teach and influence his audience in a way that is more captivating than just lecturing.

"It is kind of cliché, but if I do a trick and I make the 'impossible' become possible, they should see that they can make their goals possible too," he said.

Many of Logan's tricks involve a deck of cards, but he also uses perception and philosophy in his shows to get the audience to look at things from different perspectives.

"Perception and philosophy can influence creativity and motivation," he said. "It gets people to think outside the box and be optimistic about situations."

Understanding how people think is the foundation of Lo-

gan's perception act, and he believes that once you understand people, you can influence them through movements and messages.

"Magic is a great way to grab their attention and then once you have it, you can give them some sort of a lesson," he said. "No matter what you talk about, you have that connection so they can appreciate my view and I appreciate theirs. It's all about communicating and having fun, and that is what my message is to people."

Logan's magic act is not the kind of act that uses a smoke machine, and he does not have an assistant whom he pretends to cut in half. He likes to take ordinary objects and do something extraordinary with them.

"He has always had that leadership background. He always showed determination."

— Carolyn McDonald

"I don't use birds or scarves or anything like that," he said. "I don't want huge illusions. That isn't magic. Magic is taking something small and making it amazing."

He performed his first official stage act when he was 16. That also was the same year he decided he wanted to write a book.

The book would explain how magic can be used to think outside the box and motivate others to pursue their own passions in life, just as his stage act does. He proposed the idea to Clark, who loved the idea, and Logan began writing before and after school.

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"I would stay up until 3 a.m. on a school night, but my parents just thought I had extra homework," he said. "They didn't know I was writing the book."

The entire process took about three years. Logan wrote the book and did all the research himself, and with the help of Clark and his agency, found a publishing company that was interested in working with him.

Last year, the book was published and Logan told his parents about it.

"It was so exciting when he told us what was going on for the last couple of years," said his mother, Carolyn McDonald. "It was such a surprise. I thought he was just leaving at 6 a.m. to study. We always joked he was the kid that turned the light on at the school every morning."

In the book, Logan describes easy magic tricks. There are pictures and explanations on how to perform each of them as he does in his shows. He wanted to surprise his parents with the published book as a way to show how much he appreciated them.

"I wanted to thank them in a special way for everything they have done, so I thought writing a book would be a cool way to do that," he said. "And the book is dedicated to them."

His book, "The Perfect Illusion", is now being sold on his website, johndukelogan.com, as well as Amazon.com and in bookstores in the Hanover area.

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Top right, when Logan was 9 or 10 years old, his parents gave him a magic kit with a top hat and wand.
Middle left, Logan believes that his magic tricks are a great way to get the audience's attention, and then through that he teaches his lesson.
Middle, although he has such a successful career already, Logan really loves to do mental-escape illusions. He can track, loves multimedia and wants to someday open his own business.
Bottom left, Logan credits his family for a lot of success. He is seen here with his younger siblings.
Bottom, out of all his tricks, Logan loves close-up magic because he can have that one-on-one connection with someone and see their reactions.
Bottom right, "The Perfect Illusion: Life" is Logan's first book that he published. He describes magic tricks and explains how magic can be used to pursue passions in life.
Photos courtesy of Logan McDonald

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When asked if he would write another magic book, he did not shoot down the idea but said it probably wouldn't happen for a few years.

"I would love to write some more books, but right now I am in college and I don't want to overwhelm myself," he said. "But I had a blast writing the first one and I want to write more."

Logan is studying entrepreneurship and communications at Bryant and plans to use the skills that he has adapted from his magic act to get his message out more.

"I'm into media and the entertainment business. I edit videos a lot, but I don't know if that is what I am going to pursue," he said. "I want to use the creativity from magic and start some sort of business."

Logan always has been independent and very motivated, so his mother said she has no doubt that he will continue to succeed in the business world.

"He started his own landscaping service called LoganLawn Care back in 2009," McDonald said. "And he has always had that leadership background. He always showed determination."

In high school, Logan was the captain of the track and cross country teams; he was the class secretary for four years, in multiple clubs and was selected as the Hanover High School representative for the MassSTAR Leadership Academy.

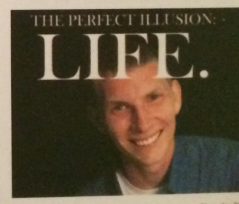
Now he is just as involved at Bryant University. As a sophomore, he is on the student senate, works in the media department and is a part of the ambassador program. Logan also has been invited to talk to incoming freshmen.

While magic is a big part of Logan's life right now, he is not sure if it will be something that he will continue to do in the long run. But he does know that he will use what he has learned from performing and from magic in all aspects of his life.

"Magic won't be my focus in life, but I will definitely use those tools and skills to make more connections and get my message out more," he said. "But I think I'll always be performing in some type of way."

To learn more about Logan or to find his contact information for an upcoming event, visit johndukelogan.com.

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